

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1124
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
PADDY CULTIVATION
Sujatha Smt. C.S.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale conversion of agricultural land particularly paddy fields in different States;
- (b) if so, the details of paddy cultivable area registered during the last three years, State- wise;
- (c) whether the Government has any mechanism in place to check this practice; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b): According to the Land Use Statistics, the area under paddy was 44.79 million hectares in 2000-01, 45.04 million hectares in 2001-02 and 42.37 million hectares in 2002-03. The share of area under paddy in the total cropped area was 24.0% in 2000-01, 23.6% in 2001-02 and 23.7% in 2002-03. Thus, there was only marginal variation during the period 2000-01 to 2002-03. The state-wise area cultivated under paddy from 2000-01 to 2002-03 is given in the Annexure. The variation in the paddy area for some states in these years is mainly due to variation in rainfall as kharif paddy is heavily dependent on rainfall, particularly in rainfed regions/area which account for around 60% of the net sown area in the country. The variations in area under paddy thus reflect inter-crop shifts in area due to weather related factors as also other factors like relative returns from different crops, prices etc.

(c) & (d): Government of India have issued National Land Use Policy Outlines to all the states and Union Territories to take necessary steps to stop conversion of agricultural land and check diversion of highly productive land including paddy fields for non agricultural purposes. Some of the states are having legislative mandate while some other states are having executive instructions in this regard.